

IDAHO LOGGING SAFETY NEWS



Published quarterly in the interest of logging safety by the
Division of Building Safety, Logging Safety Bureau
September, 2001

Dirk Kempthorne, Governor
Dave Munroe, Administrator
Volume 12, Number 3

TUSSOCKOSIS – A HEALTH ALERT

By Shayne Watkins, Potlatch Corporation-Bovill

Those of us in Latah and Benewah Counties are becoming quite familiar with the devastating effects of the Douglas-fir tussock moth. As we work and recreate around these hairy critters, we need to be aware of the potential human health risks.

From Moscow to Deary and north to Plummer, a heavy infestation of the tussock moth larvae has significantly defoliated Douglas fir and grand fir trees. In spite of control efforts, salvage logging is now necessary over much of the affected area.

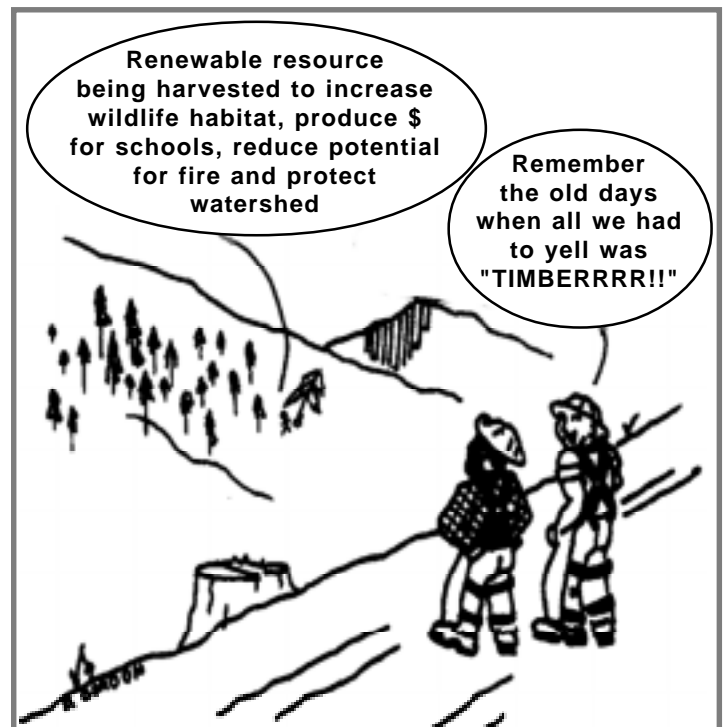
Foresters and loggers are exposed to high concentrations of air-borne particulate matter from the insects. TUSSOCKOSIS (a rash and irritation of the skin) and respiratory problems can occur when fine hairs from the caterpillars and cocoons come in contact with exposed skin or are inhaled. They can cause toxic and allergenic reactions, including itching of the skin and eyes, rash, nasal discharge, cough, and respiratory difficulty.

If you get similar allergic reactions, limit your exposure and wash thoroughly. If the symptoms persist, consult a physician as soon as possible. Be safe!



A C C I D E N T

A logger almost sustained serious injuries when the tie back line of the line skidder he was operating failed. The machine tipped up and against a log deck, or it would have rolled over the road bank and down into the strip. The operator either jumped or was thrown and landed between some logs in front of the machine. He is recovering from neck and back injuries and his healing process is going well.



WRAPPERS, HARD HATS and OTHER BAD WORDS

By Galen Hamilton



I would like to discuss something I've noticed since I have been doing this logging safety stuff. I've noticed on certain types of jobs when a serious accident occurs, safety efforts become a high priority by other loggers who do that type of work—for a while! You hear about an accident and a guy thinks, "Hey, that's the same type of job I do every day". This scare keeps us on our toes for a while and we pay closer attention to safety, but as time passes, our attention tapers off. That's what we call human nature. It's like rooting for the CUBS to go to the World Series. We all know it could happen, but after a while, sheesh.

Wrapping up a load of logs is a perfect example of a job where we have the tendency to lower our guard. It's the same thing once, twice, three or four times a day. Throw a wrapper, pick up the hard hat, throw another wrapper, and pick up the hard hat and so on. Then jump in the truck, bounce down the road a ways, then tighten the wrappers. Same thing, over and over again. In this type of job, our guard can be let down very easily, and because of this exact reason, this job has the potential to be one of the most dangerous in the woods.

I wouldn't have written this article if it weren't for two things. The concern that no one seems to look up anymore is the first thing. Truck drivers' signal that they are loaded; grab a wrapper and just head down the side of the load. I'm not picking only on truck drivers here. Often landing men, skidder operators and even an occasional timber faller may help out a truck driver with his wrappers, but no one looks up

The second thing that was a concern occurred while I was standing on the side of the road talking to an old lumberjack. Here is how it went. A truck zoomed by us with all his wrappers on but we noticed that not even one was going over the shorty on the peak. It was obvious that this driver did not spend much time looking up at his load! I wish that driver could have seen the look that old lumberjack gave me.

I started this article discussing how we pay closer attention AFTER an accident. Since we have two or three loggers injured every year wrapping up a load, it looks like we will have the chance to do it again this year. Here's a thought, let's start paying attention BEFORE an accident! If a log comes off a load while wrapping up, it can be very painful and costly. A log coming off a load while driving down the road and hitting someone, well there isn't enough money for that one boys!

I know I'm going to get chewed out by a bunch of you because I wrote, "no one looks up" when I know good and well most of you are doing an outstanding job. You loggers do 100 good things involving safety and get little thanks, but one miscue and I start bellyaching. Next issue I will just write about the good stuff—or maybe not!

A C C I D E N T

A timber faller was experimenting with the open face undercut. He had fell a nice tamarack but had missed his mark and the tree went out through some standing timber. At this point, the holding wood was still attached to the stump. He was in a bad mood after missing his mark and without paying any attention to the bind of the tree, snipped the holding wood. The tree shot sideways breaking both of his legs.

A C C I D E N T

A hooker was injured when the operator accidentally bumped the switch that locks the skyline. The hooker was underneath the carriage when the skyline came down. The result from this incident was a broken shoulder. To eliminate this type of accident in the future, a guard was put on the switch.

A C C I D E N T

A hooker received severely bruised legs and hips when a large tree rolled over him. The second hooker fell a tree that the elevation choker was in and the tree went in the wrong direction. The tree hit the ground, broke in two and rolled over the hooker. Luckily, the logger was knocked into a depression in the ground or the rolling tree would have crushed him.

IDAHO'S LOGGING SAFETY ADVISORS

<i>David Kludt</i>	(208) 935-1216
<i>Don Hull</i>	(208) 667-8646
<i>Cliff Osborne</i>	(208) 875-0690
<i>Galen Hamilton</i>	(208) 793-2639

SWANSON LOGGING

This is Mark Swanson's line crew. Although Mark lives in Clarkston, Washington, his crew and nearly all of his work takes place in Idaho. On this particular day, it was at least 100 degrees and I suspect the crew was looking for a reason to take a break because they "volunteered" to help me make a first-aid video. To be real honest with you, these guys are very good at moving a lot of wood safely, but the jury is still out on their future acting careers. Actually, they did a great job and I appreciate their hard work. Thanks again guys!



Swanson's crew from L - R. Jerry Wilson (rigger), Jim Mozingo (yarder engineer), Steve Schilling – back row (hooker), Cory Pearson (hooker), Russel Matson (loader operator), Jesus Ramirez (chaser), and Mark Swanson (Owner).

NO REPLACEMENT FOR EXPERIENCE

By Galen Hamilton

I know I'm not reporting anything new when I say there is a lack of experienced help in the woods these days. In fact, when I visit different logging jobs, one of the first questions I'm asked on a regular basis is, "Do I know someone who is half-way knowledgeable about running a skidder, falling a tree or hooking a log?" Finding a person who has this knowledge, does the job safely, and doesn't mind working makes these contractors feel like they've actually won the lottery.



When I visited Gladhart Logging on a recent job, I had exactly that in mind. I found two hookers working on the yarder, each with over 20 years experience in the woods, working their tails off and enjoying it. The yarder operator, Bill Fortin, said, "Yeah, we're all screwed up here. I have two hookers older than me (both over 50), they work hard all day long, know exactly what to do, and they like doing their job. There isn't anyone to yell at!!!"

All jokes aside, Bill and Gladharts know how lucky they are to have these two OLD, hardworking loggers around. Good job Mike and John.

Left, Mike Shultz Right, John Stewart

The Idaho Logging Safety News
is published quarterly by the Logging Safety
Bureau and is prepared by
Lewis-Clark State College
Educational Technology Center
Doris Miles **Managing Editor**
Design and Graphics

It is mailed to all logging companies in Idaho.
We welcome your comments and suggestions.
Call (208) 334-3950 or write:
Idaho Logging Safety News
Logging Safety Bureau
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0048

BAD DREAMS

By Don Hull

Starting the season with a lot of new people on a logging crew can be a safety nightmare. This year I've watched several companies try to cope with late starts, then find out that some or all of their key people have moved on. This creates problems not only in production but with safety issues as well.

Logging companies have always placed safety concerns high on their list of priorities. Since many crews have been together for a long time, safety policies, along with logging habits have been naturally passed along. My concern is that when we have a significant turnover in a company, policies that are forgotten or not known need to be refreshed in all the loggers' minds.

Regardless of the new hire's experience, please take the time to CLEARLY explain what your company expects of them, exactly what their job is, and the company's safety policies. A little extra effort is needed for the things we have taken for granted in the past.



JERI

Jeri Groth is the head secretary in our Coeur d'Alene Office. Her many skills make things much easier for Cliff and Don.



ROY

Roy Cliff from Roy Cliff Logging, Sandpoint gets down and dirty changing a hose on the bottom side of his John Deere crawler. P.S. Notice the energy control block under the blade. Good job Roy!



DAVE, STEVE, BRENT, and DENNIS

Dave Kludt and some of our talented actors getting ready to go to work on a new safety video. Steve Hare, Brent Smits and Dennis Woods work for Roy Cliff Logging.

JERRY and DAVE



Jerry Taylor, highlead operator for Babbitt Logging, discusses his job with Dave Munroe. Mr. Munroe is the Administrator for the Division of Building Safety, which oversees the Logging Safety Bureau. Dave enjoys the few days when he can go out in the woods and see what the loggers are doing

Jeff Spooner Logging, St. Maries Idaho



Jeff Spooner

Jeff Spooner logs for Potlatch Corporation in the St. Maries district. At this time, he is working on a salvage strip near Santa. Jeff told me that he was given a map of around a thousand acres from Potlatch's foresters and was told to skid the blow down and dying timber. This is the kind of contractor they need to keep the forest healthy and free from fire and insects. Spooner Logging had just received an award from Potlatch for being inventive with his logging machinery. Jeff had a Tillison arch installed on his cat so he could lift drags over stumps and do less ground disturbance.

Jeff's sawyer is Richard Harvey. Richard likes to use the conventional undercut when falling. He likes this method because he can get a clean face and also because the stumps end up lower. With the backcut at ground level, the cat doesn't get hung up on stumps as often and this keeps things moving smoothly.



Richard Harvey

This crew has a lot of experience in logging and it really shows in their high quality of work and safety.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

By David Kludt

Finally, the drought is about over. I don't know how many days this summer were lost because of rain, but in my area it seemed like we lost nearly a day a week during June and July.

We had a fairly quiet summer around the state where accidents are concerned. Although we certainly were not accident free, I didn't hear of any that were real serious. However, I did hear about lots of near misses. It is crucial to pay attention to these because other than a fraction of an inch or a split second, some logger could be recovering at home right now or worse. I strongly suggest that you seriously look at these near misses and spend as much time talking about them as you would any accident.

We did have an Idaho logger fatality this summer. He was working in Washington so you may not have heard about it. In this particular accident, a faller hung a couple of trees, then fell another tree to try and knock the first two down. The third tree was at a right angle to



the two hangers and as it hit the hangers, it just balanced on the hangers. The butt shot up in the air and kicked sideways and back nearly 20 feet, then it landed on top of the faller. He obviously figured on the hangers going down rather than the tree kicking sideways.

It's hard to believe that by the time you get this newsletter, many of you most likely will have already tagged your elk. I can't believe how quickly another summer has passed. Hopefully it will be several months yet before you shut down for bad weather. Have a good, safe fall.

ACCESS AIR and CARLOCK LOGGING DONATE TIME FOR TRAINING

By Galen "The Director" Hamilton



Steve Pack, left, and Wayne May show off some of the sophisticated equipment Access Air carries on board. What it comes down to is this. If we do our part right, we can have expert medical people and equipment in the woods to help save a life within minutes. It's worth the effort!

Whether you're a timber faller, truck driver or equipment operator, no one leaves the house in the morning planning on an injury. As with any profession, however, including logging, there is always the chance of an accident. The difference between logging and most other professions is the amount of time involved getting help to the injured person. This may come as a shock to some of you lumberjacks, but many people work in places where phones work all the time and an ambulance is just minutes away. Loggers can't make that statement very often. This is why so much emphasis is put on your company to train for an "emergency evacuation".

To help solve this issue, your logging safety boys went out with video cameras in hand and shot film footage for a new emergency evacuation training film that will be used for next years safety meetings. For this project, we had to have three key elements in place: a professional air ambulance company with knowledge and a tendency to work for free; a logging crew with patience and the ability to act as though losing an hour of production was not a big deal; and finally, a few safety geeks who could operate a video camera. Well, two out of three ain't bad.

We were lucky and very appreciative to have ACCESS AIR out of Boise volunteer their services and knowledge. We all understand the expense of operating the medical helicopters, so just having them fly to the logging job was more than we deserved. We were excited to see how receptive Access Air's crew was to share their knowledge with us. We would like to thank and tip our hats to a bunch of good guys.

CARLOCK LOGGING was the crew we chose to be the "stars" of the video. As with most of us in the logging industry, this crew has, what do they say in Hollywood, the "natural" look. I guess that means they're all exceptionally handsome!

The video cameras were manned by Dave and Cliff, perhaps enough said. Actually, they did better than expected. When Access Air landed on site, a fairly large piece of bark was kicked up striking Cliff. Luckily, it was directly in the head, so no damage was detected. This time Dave even thought to turn on his camera, so its possible these fellows have a future in films.

We learned a few things during this training. Before the actual video shoot, we delivered the coordinates, longitude and latitude to Access Air. They flew directly to us without additional instructions. We highly encourage if possible, to give your crew this type of information for each job. The job's longitude and latitude will eliminate any chance of error.

The video site was an old log landing. Even though the Carlock crew generously watered the area, dust and debris flew everywhere when Access Air arrived. It basically sand blasted everything and everyone. If possible, we highly recommend a BUNCH of water. Also, remember to cover the injured person if he is near the landing area. The Access Air pilot pointed out that if it were too dusty, the helicopter could be damaged, and put simply, they can't see to land.

Here is a good bit of information. Before Access Air landed, they asked us to relay which direction the wind

was blowing. We checked for snags and lines in the area and as mentioned earlier, attempted to reduce the dust, but we never thought about the direction of the wind.

Finally, one last thing we felt was worth mentioning. Even though Access Air did fly directly to us, for the video we had one of the crew giving directions over the radio to them. We told the crew to give directions to the helicopter like, turn "right" or "a little to the left". The pilot told us later if possible to give directions as north, south, east or west, again diminishing the chance of error.

The Access Air crew had several other very helpful suggestions, but you will have to come to next springs classes to hear them. Again, thanks to Access Air and Carlock Logging for all their help.



**What
great
crews!**

*Pictured is both the Access Air crew and the Carlock Logging crew.
It's up to you to figure out who belongs with what crew.*

Left to Right:

*Bruce "Rambo" Hevron, Scott Webb, Ramon Duran,
Wayne May, James Hutchens, Steve Pack, Joe Bryson,
Alfredo Guadarrama and Roberto Leon.*

FUNK'S CLAW

Pictured is Dennis Funk's blade mounted hydraulic claw. Funk Brothers Logging from Hayden Lake have a 650 John Deere cat with a claw mounted on each corner. They use these claws to pre-bunch trees, pick up strays, high bank, and to chase foresters out of the woods. This not only increases production but it helps eliminate some of the exposures to strains and sprains from pulling on a winch line.



IDAHO LOGGING SAFETY NEWS

SEPTEMBER

David Kludt
Idaho Logging Safety
HCII Box 82
Kamiah, ID 83536

PRST-STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 16
Lewiston, Idaho
